

**Remarks**

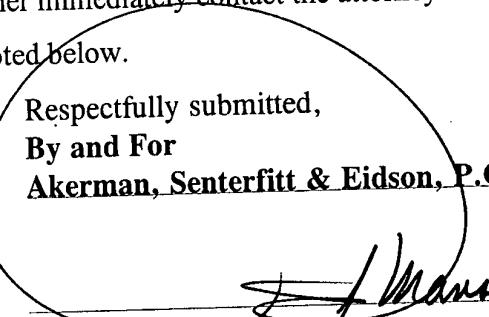
In the July 2, 1999 office action, the Examiner refused to enter the amendment to the claims for failure to comply with 37 C.F.R. §§1.121(a)(2)(i) and 1.121(a)(2)(ii).

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims have been amended herein to comply with 37 C.F.R. §§1.121(a)(2)(i) and 1.121(a)(2)(ii) and, therefore, this rejection should be discontinued.

Applicant further submits that all pending claims are patentably distinct over the references of record under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103 for the reasons articulated in the amendment filed on March 30, 1999. It is further respectfully submitted that all currently pending claims are in conformance with 35 U.S.C. §112. As a result of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application and all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, early passage of the above-identified application for U.S. patent to issuance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions or require additional information or clarification, Applicant requests that the Examiner immediately contact the attorney of record herein, Peter J. Manso, at the phone numbers noted below.

Respectfully submitted,  
By and For  
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